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City of Peterborough.



# REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND OF THE

Sanitary Inspector

For the Year 1931.

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Geo. C. Caster & Co., Printers, Peterborough.



# CITY OF PETERBOROUGH.

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## PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

### *Chairman—*

ALDERMAN WHITSED.

### *Vice-Chairman—*

COUNCILLOR FISHER.

THE MAYOR (ex-officio).	COUNCILLOR FARROW.
ALDERMAN SLATER, J.P. (ex-officio).	COUNCILLOR GUNTON.
ALDERMAN RISELEY.	COUNCILLOR HOWARD.
ALDERMAN DAY.	COUNCILLOR G. C. HALL.
COUNCILLOR BARTRAM.	COUNCILLOR J. R. HALL.
COUNCILLOR MRS. BRYANT.	COUNCILLOR WRIGHT.

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## Infant Welfare Committee.

### *Chairman—*

COUNCILLOR H. J. FARROW.

### *Vice-Chairman—*

COUNCILLOR F. H. WRIGHT.

The above Committee exclusive of Councillors Fisher, G. C. Hall and Gunton, and adding Councillors Palmer and Snowden together with the following co-opted members :—

THE MAYORESS (ex-officio).	Mrs. LEEDS.
Mrs. MARRATT.	Mrs. J. WALKER.
Mrs. NICHOLLS.	Dr. W. PEACH HAY.

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## Staff of the Public Health Department.

*Medical Officer of Health, School Medical Officer, Medical Superintendent of the Isolation Hospitals, and Medical Officer to the Child Welfare Committee—*

\* Wm. JOHNSTONE, M.D., B.Ch. (Glas.), D.P.H. (Camb.).

*Deputy Medical Officer of Health (part time)—*

JOHN N. COLLINS, M.D. (Lond.).

### *Health Visitors—*

\* Miss ELLEN M TAMPLIN, S.R.N., C.M.B., A.R.San.I.  
\* Miss R. P. THOMPSON, S.R.N., C.M.B., A.R.San.I.

*Matron Borough Isolation Hospital—*

Miss ADA H. GREEN, S.R.N.

*Chief Sanitary Inspector also Inspector under Food & Drugs Acts and Inspector of Meat & Foods, etc.*

\* J. L. SEDEN, M.S.I.A., Cert.R.San.I., as Sanitary Inspector; Meat & Foods Inspector: Practical San. Science.

### *Sanitary Inspector—*

\* W. E. NORWELL, M.S.I.A., Cert.R.San.I., as Sanitary Inspector; Meat & Foods Inspector.

### *Clerks—*

Chief: H. A. GOODACRE. Junior: B. MALLABAND.

### *Public Analyst—*

Wm. ELBORNE, M.A. (Camb.).

\* Salary Contributions made by Exchequer Grants.



# CITY OF PETERBOROUGH. ●

## Annual Health Report, 1931.

### 1. General Statistics for 1931.

Area of Borough in Acres (from 1st April, 1929)	...	...	10,022
Population (Census 1931)	...	...	43,558
Estimated (R.G.) Mid. 1931	...	...	<b>43,750</b>
No. of Inhabited Houses, 1921 (Census)	...	...	8,422
No. of Families or separate occupiers (1921)	...	...	8,916
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	15.2
General Death rate per 1,000 population	...	...	11.9
Infantile mortality rate per 1,000 births	...	...	66.4
Phthisis death rate, per 1,000 population	...	...	0.45
Tuberculosis (all forms) death rate, per 1,000 population	...	...	0.48
Cancer death rate, per 1,000 population	...	...	1.73

### 2. Extract from Vital Statistics of the year.

		Total	M.	F.	
Births	Legitimate	643	337	306	
	Illegitimate	37	22	15	
		—	—	—	
		680	359	321	Birth rate <b>15.2</b> p. 1,000 pop.
		—	—	—	

	Total	M.	F.
Stillbirths	23	15	8

	Total	M.	F.	
Deaths	521	280	241	Death rate <b>11.9</b> p. 1,000 p.*

\* England and Wales, 12.3.

No. of women dying in or in consequence of—

(a) sepsis of parturition	...	...	...	...	...	1
(b) other causes	...	...	...	...	...	2

Deaths of Infants (under one year old)—

(a) Legitimate 40. (b) Illegitimate 5. Total **45**.

Total infant mortality, per 1,000 births	...	...	...	...	<b>66.4</b>
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	4
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	2

## Pursuant to

Article 14, Sub section (3) of the Sanitary Officers Order, 1926.

Every Medical Officer of Health is in duty bound to make an annual report applicable to each calendar year on the sanitary circumstances, the sanitary administration and the vital statistics of the district, which, in this case, is the Borough of Peterborough.

Circular 1206 of the Ministry of Health embodies the information required by the Ministry, and the report for 1931 which follows is compiled in the main on the lines indicated in that circular.

It is to be noted that although the report purports to deal with health and sanitary matters, in point of fact death and disease and statistics relating thereto, feature most largely on its pages.

## Social Conditions of Inhabitants.

A word first in regard to social conditions as related to the chief occupations of the inhabitants. Towards the close of 1931 the industrial conditions in this Borough had gathered round them a more unpropitious outlook than for very many years past. One of the chief industries in the town closed down, transferring its operations elsewhere, throwing about 500 metal workers out of employment; a factory, a branch of a Leicester firm, also ceased work with the result of withdrawing employment from about 300 female operatives. To add to these industrial clouds another of the staple industries of the Town went on short time, discharging a considerable number of employees altogether; and the brick manufactories in the neighbourhood acted similarly, so that one has to go back a very long time to find a period with so widespread a cumulative effect upon the means of livelihood of our people, and the depressing circumstances about it all is that the outlook for the future is, if not exactly black, a very obscure one indeed. The effect on the public health of this widespread unemployment it not easy to measure from such indexes.

It has been stated that the matter of deaths and diseases will find a large place in the report. The total number of deaths work out at 521 or a rate of 11.9 per 1,000 population, which is below the figure for England and Wales. Comment seems to arise as follows:—

- (1) The number of uncertified deaths appears to be mounting for some unexplainable reason, there being a total of 13 deaths in connection with which there was no medical certificate stating cause of death; in other words these people had no efficient medical attendance during their last illness sufficient to enable a registered medical practitioner to state conclusively what led up to the death. It is to be noted of course that 8 of them were over 70, but the bull point remains that the number of **uncertified deaths** at the rate of double those of Manchester and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times that of England, is an unsatisfactory trend.
- (2) A dissection of the deaths to age groups is this year undertaken and brings to light certain features; for example it will probably cause surprise to those who have thought that Peterborough's population is in the main composed of old people, when it is stated that only 45% of the population reached life's allotted span of three score years and ten, given adjustment in the total for those infants who started with a precarious hold on life. There is a heavier death rate at ages between 25 and 70 than over 70, the figures being 227 against 215.
- (3) Tuberculosis is still "Captain of the men of death" between 17 and 47 years of age, the larger proportion of these being in the 20's, but Heart Disease in the similar age groups runs Tuberculosis a very close second, being by far the largest



single cause of death. As always, the Cancer rate in Peterborough is again higher than that of England and Wales. 16 people, ages ranging from 22 to 55, succumbed to Cancer, the youngest of whom was a woman of 31, and at the same time it is distressing to record that as many as 5 were under 45; there were a greater number of these deaths under 70 than over, figures being 41 under 70 against 35 over. There seems to be more mortality from kidney trouble (Nephritis) during 1931 than used to be the case, and there were more deaths under 70 than over. Similar remarks apply to the heading "other defined diseases"—a miscellaneous heading which includes most diseases of women (non malignant), nervous diseases and tumours of unknown origin. 70% of these cases had not attained the age of 70. In regard to suicide no one who had attained the age of 70 thought of taking his own life.

**The Death Rate per 1,000** of population from the principal Infectious Diseases in England and Wales, and Towns comparable with Peterborough, and Peterborough itself, during 1931 :—

				Enteric Fever.	Smallpox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.
<b>Peterborough</b>	...	...	...	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.09</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.04</b>	<b>0.02</b>	<b>0.34</b>
England and Wales	...	...	...	0.01	0.001	0.08	0.01	0.06	0.07	0.36
159 Smaller Towns	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.01	0.05	0.05	0.36

The above table serves as a means of ascertaining how the experience of Peterborough compares with the rest of the country.

In 1931 the Measles mortality in Peterborough was about the same as the rest of England, and, unlike some immediate previous years, a similar remark applies to Whooping Cough, Diphtheria and Influenza. There is a welcome fall in the mortality from Diphtheria, this being now less than is the experience of the whole of England. There was no mortality from Enteric Fever, Smallpox or Scarlet Fever, and while it was a fact that both Influenza and Whooping Cough were, in 1930, twice as mortal in Peterborough as the rest of England, in 1931 it is a pleasure to record that the experience in Peterborough has been more favourable than the rest of England, in spite of the fact that 1931 was an Influenza year wherein England experienced three times the mortality that it did in 1930, whereas Peterborough's was but 38% greater at 15 deaths against 11.



# Causes of Deaths in Peterborough, M.B., 1931.

(Registrar General's Figures).

Causes of Death.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Civilians only, All Causes ...	280	241	521
1. Enteric fever ...			
2. Measles ...	2	2	
3. Scarlet fever ...			
4. Whooping Cough ...	1	1	
5. Diphtheria ...	1	1	
6. Influenza ...	6	9	
7. Encephalitis lethargica ...	2	1	
8. Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	2		
9. Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	10	10	
10. Other tuberculosis disease ...		1	
11. Syphilis ...			
12. General Paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis ...	2	2	
13. Cancer, malignant disease ...	31	45	
14. Diabetes ...	9	5	
15. Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc. ...	14	23	
16. Heart disease ...	68	40	
17. Aneurysm ...	1		
18. Other circulatory diseases ...	9	6	
19. Bronchitis ...	10	12	
20. Pneumonia (all forms) ...	15	5	
21. Other respiratory diseases ...	4	2	
22. Ulcer Peptic ...	3		
23. Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years) ...	1		
24. Appendicitis and typhlitis ...	5	1	
25. Cirrhosis of liver ...	4		
26. Other diseases of the liver etc. ...		1	
27. Other digestive diseases ...	4	9	
28. Acute and chronic nephritis ...	13	13	
29. Puerperal sepsis ...		1	
30. Other puerperal causes ...		2	
31. Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth ...	14	9	
32. Senility ...	8	17	
33. Suicide ...	6	2	
34. Other deaths from violence ...	10	6	
35. Other defined diseases ...	23	12	
36. Causes ill-defined or unknown ...	2	3	

# DEATHS. Age Groups in relation to causes.

	All ages.	Under 12 months.	Over 1 and under 5	5—15 years	15—25 years	Over 25 and under 55	55 and under 70	70+
Certified	508	43	9	6	19	93	131	207
Uncertified	13	2	—	—	—	2	1	8
THE INFECTIONS:—								
Measles ... ..	4	1	2	—	1	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ... ..	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Influenza ... ..	15	2	—	—	1	2	3	7
Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ... ..	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Tuberculosis. Respiratory ... ..	20	—	—	—	5	15	—	—
Ditto, non-respiratory ... ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
G.P.I., Tabes ... ..	4	—	—	—	—	3	1	—
Cancer, Malignant Disease ... ..	76	—	—	—	—	16	25	35
						5 under 45		
Diabetes ... ..	14	—	—	—	—	1	4	8
Apoplexy, etc. ... ..	37	—	—	—	—	2	8	27
DISEASES OF THE CHEST:—								
Heart Disease ... ..	108	—	—	1	2	16	26	63
Ditto, Aneurysm ... ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Other Circulatory Diseases ... ..	15	—	—	—	—	1	8	6
Bronchitis ... ..	22	5	—	—	—	1	5	11
Other Respiratory Diseases ... ..	6	—	—	—	—	1	4	1
Pneumonia ... ..	20	8	1	—	1	6	3	1

# **ABDOMINAL DISEASES:—**

Gastric & Duodenal Ulcer	...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—
Appendicitis ...	...	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	1	—	—
Cirrhosis of Liver ...	...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	—	5
Diarrhæa (under 2 years) ...	...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Digestive Diseases ...	...	13	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	—
Nephritis ...	...	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	12	—	10
Puerperal—														
Sepsis ...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Others ...	...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Infants non-viable	...	22	22	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Diseases Infancy	...	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Senility ...	...	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25
Suicide ...	...	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	6	—	—
Violence ...	...	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	3	—	5
Other defined diseases	...	35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	15	—	7
Obscure diseases ...	...	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	4



### 3. NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1931.

Disease.	Cases Notified.								Cases admitted to Hospital		Deaths.							Total Deaths
	Total	Under 1 Year	1—5	5—15	15—25	25—45	45—65	65 and over	Total	%notified	Under 1 Year	1—5	5—15	15—25	25—45	45—65	65 and over	
Smallpox ...	23	—	—	13	5	4	1	—	23	100%	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	13	1	4	5	1	2	—	—	11	84%	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	2
Scarlet Fever ...	59	—	9	42	3	5	—	—	50	84%	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever (including paratyphoid) ...	3	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	2	66%	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever ...	3	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	2	66%	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	5	—	—	—	1	4	—	—	2	40%	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	66	9	12	13	4	15	7	6	—	—	8	1	—	1	1	4	5	20
Other Diseases, i.e.																		
Erysipelas ...	18	—	—	—	3	2	8	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	100%	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	50%	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	100%	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1

# Tuberculosis.

## New Cases and Mortality during 1931.

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmy.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmy.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1								
1—5		1						
5—10				1				
10—15			1	—				
15—25	3	4	—	—	3	2		
25—35	4	4	2	1	3	3		
35—45	6	2	2		2	3		
45—55	4	1			1	—		
55—65	—	—			—	—		
65 and upwards	—	—			1	—		
Totals ...	17	12	5	2	10	8		

## Peterborough Isolation and Smallpox Hospital

The Corporation owns and maintains the above in separate curtilages, the Smallpox Hospital being a mile distant from the Isolation Hospital.

The accommodation of the Isolation Hospital, on the regulation basis of 144 square feet per bed, consists of two separate blocks of 8 beds each, a total of 16 beds, though there can actually be put into commission 30 beds.

The Smallpox Hospital on the 144 square feet per bed basis has, by that method, 18 regulation beds with potentially 38.

The population of the Borough which the accommodation of these two Hospitals has to serve is 43,750. The basic principle of accommodation in Fever Hospitals to a population is on any rule to be one bed per thousand of the population, but whether this is to be computed on a 144 square feet per bed basis, or on the space which could actually be used, is not defined and also whether the Smallpox Hospital accommodation is to be taken into consideration. By whatever method the accommodation is computed the resultant fact is that Peterborough does not possess one bed per thousand population for fevers other than Smallpox. This would mean that instead of 16 there would have to be about 45 "regulation" beds. In point of actual fact although from basic calculation the accommodation is on that basis restricted below the minimum, actual experience since 1920, with the exception of the Smallpox outbreak of 1929, has not led in the main to any acute shortage of beds, but speaking relatively over a period of twelve years since 1920, the Borough has been fortunate to the last degree in outbreaks of infectious diseases being commensurate to a large extent with the accommodation, and of course this may continue—and it may not. What would happen in the event of an explosive milk-borne Scarlet Fever outbreak or Enteric Fever (incidence such as occurred at Epping two years ago) would show up only too clearly how inadequate the Fever accommodation is. Even a moderate Typhoid outbreak of say five cases a week over a period of three weeks would find an utterly hopeless inadequacy of accommodation. Further, other Authorities signifying District Councils in surrounding areas have in the past clamoured for, and have been conceded, odd beds from time to time. Up to the present time this concession has been per favour although agreements have in fact been drawn up between the Borough and surrounding districts which stipulated if there was a bed vacant which the Borough did not require on the given day of request, that case from an adjoining Authority was to be admitted. Here again the adjoining Authorities have in the past ten or eleven years had a run of good fortune, for, with the exception of the Smallpox outbreak of 1929 when the Fever Hospital was used for Smallpox and other infections could not be admitted, in the course of ten years no case from an adjoining Authority had to be declined admission because the accommodation was entirely occupied by Borough cases.



Section 63 of the Local Government Act of 1929 contemplates that the provision of Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases shall be more definite and purposive than in the past not only for larger aggregations of population in Boroughs which in well regulated communities have been provided for for a generation past, the onus for drawing up schemes is laid on County Councils. We as a Borough have our provision, but to consider what position the adjoining Authorities are placed a conference was held at the Guildhall, Peterborough, in October, 1931, at which there were present representatives from the Soke of Peterborough County Council, the Peterborough Rural District Council and from Huntingdonshire, Old Fletton Urban District Council and Norman Cross Rural District Council. That conference discussed how best the interests of the various districts could be served in this respect, bearing in mind that the Hunts. County Council had prior to the conference endeavoured to impose upon the two Hunts. districts above named, viz.:—Old Fletton Urban District Council and Norman Cross Rural District Council an arrangement by which these two Districts were to send their cases to Stamford, a distance of from fifteen to eighteen miles. This was strongly opposed by the two District Councils who preferred to adhere to the previous arrangement with the City of Peterborough, at the same time desirous that the allotment of beds at any given time should not be per favour or per availability, but definitely for the asking, and that is the problem which is left under consideration when the meeting adjourned for one year.

The intentions of the Authority at the end of 1931 were:—

- (1) To proceed immediately with the erection of an additional block built as an extension to the already existing Scarlet Fever block, 6 “regulation” beds; actual 10.
- (2) To acquire one acre of ground on the Southern aspect of the present Hospital site for such other additional accommodation as may be deemed requisite having regard to future needs.

Plans have been passed under (1) but a loan from the Ministry to proceed with building had not been sanctioned by the Ministry up to Mid.-1932.

ISOLATION HOSPITALS.

STATISTICAL RETURN FOR 1931.

	Remaining in Hospital 31st Dec., 1930.			Admissions 1931.					Dis- ch'gd 1931	Died 1931.		Remaining in Hospital 31st December, 1931.		
	City Cases	Other Auth- orities' Cases	Total	City Cases	P. R.D.	O.F. U.D.	N.C. R.D.	Other Auth- orities' Cases	Total	City Cases	Other Auth- orities' Cases	City Cases	Other Auth- orities' Cases	Total
Smallpox ...	3	2	5	23	—	9	—	4	36	41	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	14	—	14	51	—	16	5	1	73	78	—	8	1	9
Diphtheria ...	4	—	4	11	—	—	—	1	12	14	—	1	—	1
Typhoid Fever and Paratyphoid	2	2	4	2	—	—	—	—	2	5	—	1	—	1
Other Diseases	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	23	4	27	88	1	25	5	6	125	140	1	10	1	11

1931.	Scarlet Fever	...	Average number of days in hospital per patient	39	City
	Diphtheria	...	"	42	cases
	Enteric Fever	...	"	—	only

# NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1931.

Measles.	Chicken Pox.	Mumps.	Whooping Cough.
481	30	14	109

As given by the Public Elementary School records of the Borough.

## Public Health Laboratory Report, 1931.

Nature of Specimen.	Positive.	Negative.	Doubtful.	Total.
Throat (and nose) swabs ...	1	73	1	75
Swab of other discharges ...	—	—	—	—
Other specimens ... ..	—	—	—	—
Scalp hairs to determine if Ringworm spores present	4	3	—	7
Cerebro-spinal fluid ....	—	—	—	—
<b>Total No. of Specimens Examined</b> ... ..	...	...	...	<b>82</b>



MILK AND DAIRIES (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1922.

**Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923.**

Administration during 1931:—

No. of Licences.	Kind of Licence held.	Grade of milk for which licensed.	No. of Samples taken during 1931.	Results.  Bacterial counts.
2	“Supple- mentary”	Grade A (T.T.)	24	i B Coli present at one exam- ination. (B). August in $\frac{1}{100}$ dilution. ii (B) lowest count 1020 (Nov.) highest 51,700 (June) (H) 1485 (August) to 8016 (May) <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle; margin-left: 10px;">             } bacteria                per                1 c.c. milk           </div> Note.—200,000 bacteria per c.c. is the limit permitted—cp. the above.
1	—	Pasteur- ised.	—	

**Reactors.**—Not so long ago an American Public Health Official spoke almost in a shudder when he referred to the food plight of England, with its wide prevalence of cattle tuberculosis. The bluntest way to put it is that the regular tuberculin testing of cows producing Certified or Grade A.T.T. milk can result in a danger to other herds, if not to other milk supplies. When an animal reacts to such test it must be removed from where either of the two top grades of milk is being produced, but there is nothing whatever to prevent this animal being taken straight to another cowshed where ordinary milk is being produced; there is nothing to frustrate this procedure. Apparently there is no follow-up of reactors, and so are associated in other cowsheds rejects from graded milk producers—at least a potential danger to other cattle with which they are housed as well as to the public health from tubercle-infected milk without anyone being the wiser.

# Notification of Births Extension Act, 1915.

## NOTIFICATION BY DOCTORS AND MIDWIVES.

During the year the births notified to the Department were apportioned as to 78% by Doctors and 22% by Midwives, which is practically the same as the experience of 1930, when it was noted that a larger percentage of maternity cases were being notified by Midwives than had been the experience for the previous ten years. This goes to show that only one confinement in every five is attended by a Midwife in this Borough.

### Health Visitors.

There is one full time Health Visitor, and one, part-time, combining school nursing duties in addition to Child Welfare work, in this Borough. The Health Visitors' reports are given in tabulated form indicative of the work which they carry out. As regards their work at the Welfare Centres, the full-time Health Visitor conducts four centres, the part-time Health Visitor being responsible for one, that of the added area, wherein her work has its ambit.

The new Welfare Centre which will be the central Infant Welfare Centre, situated in the new Municipal Buildings, was completed during the year, but no date of entry is cast; indeed in the middle of the year a proposition seemed to be favoured to delegate these rooms built for child welfare purposes to the use of the City Police. This project was later abandoned.

### Maternal Mortality.

Three women lost their lives in Peterborough during 1931, two as a result of the pregnant state, and one as a result of childbirth itself. The feature common to all these cases is that all were removed to hospital and all died there. Two of them had previously borne more than one previous child. The cause of death in these were, in one, the unusual position of the afterbirth giving rise to a fatal hæmorrhage, and in the other excessive vomiting associated with pregnancy. The latter had been in Hospital for two months with this condition, where a valient attempt was made to deal with this morbid state though the efforts ended unsuccessfully; while the other was rushed to Hospital as an emergency and died within a few hours of admission. It cannot be said, therefore, that anything had been left undone in the effort to save the lives of these cases, as the investigation of them illustrate.

Three deaths in any one year arising out of, or in consequence of, the reproductive state in relation to the number of births per annum gives for this Borough a maternal mortality equivalent to that of the Country as a whole.

# REPORT OF HEALTH VISITORS for 1931.

No. of Births notified to Dept. 1931 {	By Doctors	529
	„ Midwives	151

No. of Infants died under 1 Year ... .. 45

First Visits: Under One Year ... .. 723

Return Visits: Under One Year ... .. 896

Return Visits: One to Five Years ... .. 3957

Total Visits for year ... .. 5576

## Conditions as to feeding methods:—

	At first Visit	At 3 months	At 6 months
Babies breast fed entirely ... ..	497	219	266
Babies breast fed partly ... ..	1	25	15
Artificially fed in the following manner:—			
Hygienic Bottles ... ..	235	122	107
Long Tube Bottles ... ..	—	1	—
Medicine Bottles ... ..	—	—	—
Dried Milk ... ..	97	45	38
Milk and Water Diluted ... ..	127	75	65
Infants sleeping alone ... ..	477	216	255

## Attendances at Infant Welfare Centres.

Centre.	1931.
Queen Street ... ..	3193
New England ... ..	3912
South Ward ... ..	190
Eastgate ... ..	489
Werrington ... ..	1653
Mothercraft Attendances	428
Visits to Antenatal cases	8



## Infantile Mortality, 1931.

### RESPIRATORY CAUSES

Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	} 34%
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	

CONGENITAL PREMATURITY etc. ... .. 8

Gastro-Enteritis ... .. 2

CONTINGENCIES OF CHILD BIRTH ... .. 5

MALFORMATION Defects ... .. 7

Measles ... .. 1

Whooping Cough ... .. 1

- (1) Health Visitors cannot be held responsible for the deaths from respiratory causes numbering 15 in all in the above table constituting 34% of the deaths under 12 months of age, together with the Measles and Whooping Cough cases and 5 other deaths related to contingencies of childbirth are the Doctors' cases, and the supervision and treatment is the medical practitioner's responsibility. That is half the numbers comprised in the whole infant deaths.
- (2) Neither Doctors nor Health Visitors can be accountable for Malformation defects, chiefly of the heart, of which there were 7 instances or 15% of the total.
- (3) Neither can they be held responsible for the population going in for twins, of which there were two lots lost both, and another two sets lost one, one inclusion being a "carry over" from the previous year.
- (4) The remaining 8 were a congeries of cases which go under the heading "congenital prematurity," which is a way of stating that they were booked for the next world rather than this from the start.

## Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Cases.			Vision Unimpaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
Notified during the Year	Treated					
	At Home	In Hospital				
2	1	1	2	—	—	—

## Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Centre.	Situation.	By whom provided.
Queen Street	Queen Street Fire Station ...	Infant
New England	St. Paul's Church Hall ...	Welfare Committee.
Eastgate ...	Wesley Hall, Hampden Rd.	Do.
South Ward ...	Palmerston Rd. Church Hall	Do.
Werrington ...	Wesley Hall, Werrington ...	Do.
School Clinic	24, Priestgate ... ..	Education Committee.

# LIST OF ADOPTED ACTS, LOCAL BYE-LAWS, AND REGULATIONS.

	Date of Adoption.
Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889 ...	31st Dec., 1889
Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890 ...	24th Nov., 1890
Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890 ...	24th Nov., 1890
Private Street Works Act, 1892 ... ..	June, 1896
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, Sections 78, 79, 80, 81, 84, 85, 86 ... ..	30th July, 1908
Parts II, III, IV, V, VI, and X ... ..	16th Dec., 1908
Public Health Act, 1925—Adoptive Sections, viz.: Parts II, III, IV and V ... ..	1st Jan., 1926
Offensive Trades ... ..	17th Mar., 1922
Order making Fish Frier Offensive Trade ... ..	9th Sept., 1926
Tents, Vans, Sheds, and similar Structures ... ..	22nd June, 1927
Common Lodging Houses ... ..	6th Jan., 1930
Removal of House Refuse ... ..	28th Feb., 1930
Nuisances arising from Snow, Filth, etc., and the keeping of animals ... ..	15th April, 1930

**Administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901,  
in connection with**

**Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.**

**1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.**

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.

Premises.  (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
Factories ... .. (Including Factory Laundries)	11	—	—
Workshops ... .. (Including Workshop Laundries)	129	4	—
Workplaces ... .. (Other than Outworkers' premises)	19	—	—
Total ... ..	159	4	—

**2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.**

Particulars.  (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of offences in respect to which Pro- secutions were insti- tuted. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—*	—	—	—	—
Want of cleanliness ...	5	5	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	—
Not separate for sexes	1	1	—	—
Other offences referred to H.M. Inspector ...	—	—	1	—
Total ... ..	7	7	1	—

\*Including those specified in Sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.



# HOUSING.

## Statistics.

Number of New Houses erected during the year:—

i. By the Local Authority (with State assistance under the Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
ii. By Private Enterprise	...	...	...	...	...	...	146
Total							193

### I.—Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	946
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	1513
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	...	176
(3) (a) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	—
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	254
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	30

### II.—Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	...	...	...	...	223
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### III.—Action under Statutory Powers.

A.—*Proceedings under sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Act, 1930.*

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	7
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(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit:—	
(a) by owners ... ..	6
(b) by local Authority in default of owners ... ..	1
B.— <i>Proceedings under Public Health Acts.</i>	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	2
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) by owners ... ..	2
(b) by local Authority in default of owners ... ..	—





*CITY OF PETERBOROUGH.*

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II.

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Chief Sanitary Inspector

For the year 1931.

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(J. L. SEDEN, M.S.I.A., Cert. R. San. I.)



# Sanitary Inspector's Report, 1931.

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Sanitary Inspector's Office,  
Broadway,  
1932.

To the

Right Worshipful the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the City of  
Peterborough.

Mr. Mayor, Mrs. Councillor Bryant, and Gentlemen,

Herewith I beg to place before you my Twenty-first Annual Report in which is given a brief review of the work of my Department during the year 1931.

The District, as far as was practicable, has been systematically inspected during the year and necessary action was taken to deal with nuisances or sanitary defects discovered. An interview, or intimation by letter, or informal notice, is sufficient in nearly all cases to get necessary matters attended to. Only in one case was work done in default by the City Council on non-compliance with Statutory Notice.

A total of 86 visits were paid respecting van dwellings—one colony of which called for considerable oversight. Legal proceedings were taken on two occasions during the year against the owner of the land on which these vans were encamped, for breaches of Byelaws Nos. 8 and 16. A total fine of £4 was recorded on the first occasion and £8 with costs on the second occasion. Subsequently the vans were removed from the field.

Details of work done, which will, I trust, meet with your approval, follow under their respective headings, and with a view to facilitating comparison, the Report is built up on similar lines to its predecessors. Much work done, however, cannot be classified or tabulated, while year by year the clerical and administrative side of the work make increasing claims on my time. Comparing this Report with earlier Reports it will be seen how much the work has increased, particularly in such sections as Slaughterhouse, Meat and Food inspections; the Milk and Dairies Order; Clean Milk Tests; Fried Fish Shop Regulations; etc., while, in common with the experience of other districts, it will be noted that defaults under the Food and Drugs Adulteration Act are now much less frequent than in pre-war days.



## INSPECTIONS, COMPLAINTS, NOTICES.

Inspections: 4344.

Re-visits: 1191.

Complaints: 189 formally received. Action was found to be necessary in 113 cases.

Notices: 68 Informal and 12 Statutory Notices were served under the Public Health Acts and Housing Act.

## NUISANCES ABATED AND SANITARY DEFECTS REMEDIED.

Drains cleared, cleansed or repaired ... ..	50
New drains laid and drains partly relaid ... ..	58
Stoneware gully traps fixed in place of defective "D" traps ...	2
New ventilating shafts fixed or shafts repaired ... ..	9
New W.C. pans and traps or pans only fixed ... ..	29
W.Cs. cleared or pans cleansed ... ..	2
W.C. apartments repaired, reconstructed or limewashed ... ..	6
New W.C. apartments and pans and traps fixed ... ..	3
Flushing cisterns adjusted ... ..	16
New flushing apparatus provided ... ..	3
Window frames repaired, made to open etc. ... ..	35
Overcrowding abated ... ..	2
Floors repaired or renewed ... ..	3
Paving repaired or relaid ... ..	27
Roofs repaired ... ..	93
New sinks or baths ... ..	14
Rainwater pipes and gutters repaired or renewed ... ..	38
Accumulations of manure or refuse removed ... ..	3
Miscellaneous nuisances abated ... ..	188
	581

## HOUSE INSPECTION.

946 Houses were inspected, at 176 of which the formalities necessary under the Housing Acts were complied with. (153 of these inspections were a detailed survey for information as to whether the property should subsequently be dealt with under the provisions of Sections 1 or 7 of the Act of 1930). At 223 houses defects were remedied under the Public Health Acts or Housing Acts, including the 11 outstanding from last year. 8 are outstanding for the current year. Early in the present year work was done by the City Council in default on non-compliance with a Statutory Notice, served towards the end of the year under review respecting a house unfit for habitation, owing to various sanitary defects.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

90 Visits of enquiry were made respecting 99 cases. A number of re-visits were also made. The enquiries made include:—possible source of infection and date of onset of illness; school and class (including Sunday School) attended by the patient; occupation; names and ages of the inmates of the house together with their occupation, or school; as to recent attendance of the patient at cinemas or other places of public

resort; milk supply; house accommodation and condition; membership of the Public, or other libraries. Any book on issue is removed for disinfection or destruction.

The usual printed particulars are left at each house.

Comparison with the 10 previous years is as follows:—

1930	...	...	...	172 visits respecting	173 cases
1929	...	...	...	391	419
1928	...	...	...	151	162
1927	...	...	...	80	82
1926	...	...	...	71	71
1925	...	...	...	54	54
1924	...	...	...	48	48
1923	...	...	...	107	102
1922	...	...	...	80	82
1921	...	...	...	91	97

### DISINFECTION.

The number of rooms disinfected is as follows:—

Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	134
Phthisis	...	...	...	...	...	24
Non-notifiable	...	...	...	...	...	35
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	19
						<hr/> 212 <hr/>

A number of Library books have also been disinfected. Books from Smallpox houses are, however, destroyed.

Bedding was removed to the Fever Hospital to be disinfected from:—

99 Houses (after Infectious Disease)	...	766 articles
9 Houses (after Phthisis)	...	89 articles
		<hr/> 855 <hr/>

On request 88 articles of bedding, etc., were also removed for disinfection from various houses in the City after non-notifiable diseases, and for which payment has been made.

The following is a list of all articles removed:—

Beds	...	...	...	81
Blankets	...	...	...	265
Pillows	...	...	...	224
Bolsters	...	...	...	73
Mattresses	...	...	...	42
Counterpanes, etc.	...	...	...	65
Carpets, etc.	...	...	...	7
Clothing	...	...	...	21
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	165
				<hr/> 943 <hr/>

## FRIED FISH SHOPS.

84 Visits were paid to the 41 Fried Fish Shops on the Register.

Speaking generally, the Byelaws have been well observed.

8 Changes in occupation took place during the year, and 1 business has been discontinued. After the necessary formalities had been observed, 1 application to establish the trade was granted in April.

Limewashing was done on request in 22 cases, and one new frying pan has been fixed.

## COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

67 Visits were paid to the 4 Common Lodging Houses. On the whole these houses have been kept in a satisfactory condition and no defaults, calling for formal report, have arisen.

Three informal notices were given and the necessary work received prompt attention.

## SLAUGHTER HOUSES

and

### PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS, 1924.

24 Slaughterhouses were on the Register during the year. One change in occupation took place during the year, and one license was not renewed for the current year, as for months the slaughterhouse had not been used by the licensed occupier.

1,207 Formal recorded visits were paid, chiefly at irregular times. Speaking generally, the management of the slaughterhouses has been very satisfactory, and no defaults have arisen calling for an official report to be made to you. Also the class of animal killed locally is of good quality. In the case of beasts less than 10 per cent. are cows; thereby condemnation for disease or unsoundness is reduced to a minimum. The local Butchers' Association is an active Society, and the relationship between your officers and the Society is, I am happy to record, harmonious. The Indemnity Fund of the Association during the year again has proved helpful to the members.

Work done:—

Drains repaired	...	...	...	3
Pen repaired	...	...	...	1
Minor improvements	...	...	...	2

Although the number of slaughterhouses in use and occupation now is less than twenty years ago, yet the number of animals slaughtered in the City, owing to centralisation of slaughtering or enlargement of premises, is considerably more. The following relevant particulars were recently submitted to the Public Health Committee:—

“ Notices of slaughter were received under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, Clause 8, as follows:—

					Beasts.	Sheep.	Pigs.
December	...	77	Relating to	...	42	59	355
November	...	75	„ „	...	23	34	237
October	...	67	„ „	...	21	33	151
September	...	70	„ „	...	21	39	156



In addition to the above, 27 Butchers have an average of four "regular days" each per week (as per Clause 8 (1) Meat Regulations) within the Committee's approved hours. These days cover the bulk of local slaughtering, which is approximately 70 Beasts, 200—250 each Sheep and Pigs weekly."

In addition to the above recorded visits, a much larger number of irregular visits were paid to Meat Shops, Making-up Premises, Market Stalls, etc. No serious defaults under the Regulations were noted. Frequent and irregular visits undoubtedly have a very useful effect in keeping things up to the mark, and make for smooth working and compliance with the Regulations.

Two Knackers' premises are licensed and these have been visited from time to time.

### FOOD SURRENDERED AND DESTROYED.

During the year the following have been surrendered and destroyed as unfit for human food:—

For Tuberculosis:—

538 $\frac{3}{4}$  Stones of Beef (7541 $\frac{1}{2}$  lbs.)

Included in the above is the entire carcase and edible offal of 2 Ox beasts, 3 Heifers, and 5 Cows—6 of which were covered by the Indemnity Fund of the Butchers' Association.

For other diseases:—

99 $\frac{1}{2}$  Stones of Beef (1393 lbs.).

Also:—

5 Pigs (Generalised Tuberculosis) 47 $\frac{1}{4}$  Stones.

7 Pigs (Erysipelas) 71 $\frac{1}{4}$  Stones.

6 Pigs (Other diseases) 73 Stones.

3 Sheep (Unsound).

Sundries:—

Including 40 Rabbits, 49 Pigs' heads, a quantity of various edible offals, etc., etc.

Early in the year, during Slaughter House visitations under the Meat Regulations, two suspect cases of Contagious Disease were noticed and reported to the Officers concerned with the administration of these Acts. One case was confirmed. The other, after precautionary action had been taken, and following careful investigation, was certified negative.

I find that the butchers very loyally comply with Clause 9 of the Meat Regulations and numerous notices thereunder are received. All carcasses unfit for human food have been destroyed under your Officers' supervision at one or other of the local Knackers' premises, chosen by the person surrendering the carcase. In the case of an insured animal, the carcase is also viewed by representatives of the Inspection Committee of the local Butchers' Association.

## BAKEHOUSES.

41 Bakehouses were on the Register during the year, to which 66 visits have been paid. 4 Informal Notices were sent. Attention to lime-washing was requested and done in 14 cases. One occupied Bakehouse was overhauled, also 2 others prior to re-occupation by new tenants. 5 changes in occupation took place during the year and one Bakehouse has been vacated.

### FOOD AND DRUGS (ADULTERATION) ACT, 1928.

Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations.

The following articles have been purchased and submitted to the Public Analyst, viz:—

	Informal.	Formal.	Total.
Milk ... ..	3	54	57
Separated Milk ...	—	3	3
Butter ... ..	13	1	14
Camphorated Oil ...	3	—	3
Coffee ... ..	1	—	1
Sausage ... ..	11	—	11
	—	—	—
	31	58	89
	—	—	—

The 57 genuine samples of milk (of which 66 per cent. were morning's milk; 10.5 per cent. evening's milk; and 23 per cent. "not known") gave an average composition as follows:—3.91 per cent. fat; 8.88 per cent. solids not fat.

One informal sample of butter was certified to contain 4.39 per cent. excessive moisture. A following up formal sample subsequently taken from the same Vendor was certified genuine. Later the Vendor was interviewed respecting the informal sample.

### PUBLIC HEALTH (CONDENSED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1923.

### PUBLIC HEALTH (DRIED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1923.

Investigations have brought to light no contraventions of the above Regulations.

### MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1926.

### DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

At the end of the year under review the following are on the Register:—

(1)	Retail Purveyors having premises in the City ... ..	41
(2)	Retail Purveyors whose premises are situate outside the City area ... ..	22
(3)	Producers (Retail) in the City with Registered Cowsheds ... ..	27
(4)	Producers (Wholesale) in the City with Registered Cowsheds ... ..	12
(5)	Milkshops ... ..	6
(6)	Small Shopkeepers selling Bottled Milk only ... ..	33



During the year the following were Registered:—

- 3 Producers (2 selling milk wholesale, 1 retail).
- 5 Retail Purveyors.
- 4 Shopkeepers selling Bottled Milk.

Discontinued:—

- 2 Producers and 2 Retail Purveyors.

145 Visits were paid. 14 Letters were sent, including one by the Town Clerk, on the Public Health Committee's instructions.

Little cause for official complaint has arisen. Viewed over a number of years, decided improvements are noticeable in the cleanliness of the Cows and premises and the methods of milk production. The Milk and Dairies Order is having good results which one hopes to see continued and even increased.

Work done:—

Sheds overhauled and reconstructed—floor, drainage, light, ventilation, etc.—prior to Registration	...	...	...	...	...	4
Shed drained and other repairs	...	...	...	...	...	1
New Dairy, Wash-up Place, and large Cold Storage Chamber built	...	...	...	...	...	1
Shed enlarged	...	...	...	...	...	1
New Dairy and Washing-up Room	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cleansing of Cowshed, etc., following Notice	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dairy overhauled	...	...	...	...	...	1
Limewashing (on request)	...	...	...	...	...	5
Other matters	...	...	...	...	...	2

Following observations, a breach of Clause 31/2 of the Milk and Dairies Order was noticed and reported upon, viz:—Filling and closing bottles in the street and not at a registered dairy. The matter was considered by the Public Health Committee and the Milk Purveyor and his employee were warned by the Town Clerk on the Committee's instructions.

Two Retail Purveyors (partners) attended before the May Meeting of the Public Health Committee in accordance with a Notice sent them under Section 2 of the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, respecting certain matters which had been under the Committee's consideration at previous Meetings, arising out of observations made and samples taken under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act. Explanations were given and the Purveyors were cautioned by the Chairman and informed of the views of the Committee, as recorded in the Council's Minutes.

A number of clean milk tests have been made with the Sediment Tester of milk on sale by retail in the City. Marked improvements were noticed as compared with the results obtained when this test was first introduced some years back. Too much reliance, however, cannot be placed on this test. It is helpful, but a clean pad may simply indicate efficient straining; cleaned milk rather than clean milk. As a clean milk guide it cannot be compared to the more reliable bacteria count test.

In connection with the above tests 11 cautionary letters were sent to Retail Purveyors and 1 warning letter by the Town Clerk on the Public Health Committee's instructions.

## SHOPS ACTS.

177 Visits were paid under these Acts. 4 Formal complaints were investigated and also several interviews took place. 7 Cautionary letters were sent. Printed particulars of the Local Closing Order were served to the incoming tenant on the opening of any new shop in the scheduled area, or in the case of any change in occupation.

## FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS.

The number of Workshops (excluding Bakehouses) on the Register is 134, to which 63 visits have been paid.

1 Workshop has been discontinued during the year and 9 have been added to the Register. 14 Notices respecting changes in occupation, or the opening of new Workshops, have been received from H.M. Inspector of Factories and Workshops, also 2 complaints. These latter received prompt attention and the nuisances complained of were abated.

6 Letters were sent. Limewashing was done on request at 3 Workshops, and the sanitary conveniences were overhauled at 2 other Workshops.

OUTWORKERS:—4 Lists were received. Outworking locally within the terms of the Act is negligible.

## CANAL BOATS ACTS.

49 Boats are on the Register, but it is impossible to say how many of these are still used as house boats, the registration of some of the boats going back over forty years. They are not met locally.

Only one boat was seen in this District in 1931. This boat was satisfactory. No new registrations have been issued during the year.

## PLEASURE BOATS.

Licensed 38 and 2 Boatmen. 48 Visits were paid.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. L. SEDEN,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.





